

## R E M A R K S

Claims 1 and 10 currently remain in the application. Claims 12-17 remain withdrawn as being addressed to a non-elected subject matter. Claims 2-9 and 11 have been canceled and claims 1 and 10 are herein amended.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Kerkar in view of Ohta, further in view of Berke and still further in view of Kloetzer. At least in part because of these cited references and the Examiner's reasons for rejection, claim 1 is herein amended by incorporating all of the limitations in Claims 4-9, claims 4-9 themselves being herein canceled, claim 10 being made dependent from amended claim 11 and claim 11 being also canceled. This amendment on claim 1 has the essential effect of redefining Components A and B. As a result of this redefinition of Components A and B, graft copolymers a-5 and a-8 are no longer within the scope of the present invention and components b-5 and b-6 similarly cease to be within the scope of the present invention. Thus, Tables 1, 2, 4 and 5 are accordingly also amended. With the scopes of Components A and B thus reduced, it is now believed that amended claim 1 is allowable for the following reasons.

Regarding Kerkar, the alkenyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer described in column 3, lines 15-31 is what should be regarded as corresponding to a copolymer obtainable in the first process of claim 1 herein, or an intermediate product that happens to be produced while Component A is being obtained. As for Ohta, the graft copolymers shown by formulas S, A and B in columns 5 and 6 are those obtained from a copolymer having maleic acid or its salt as principal component by making its part corresponding to maleic acid into a form of partial ester. These graft copolymers do not contain any of the monomers shown by Formula 1 of claim 1 herein. In summary, the alkenyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer of Kerkar and the graft copolymers according to Ohta are different from Component A of claim 1.

As for Berke, the alkylene glycol described in column 1, lines 11-18 and propylene glycol described in column 6, lines 60-61 are characterized as having a hydroxyl group on both ends of the molecule. They are different from the kind of polypropylene glycol monoalkylether of Component B of claim 1, characterized as having one end closed by alkyl group with 3-5 carbon atoms.

Although the Examiner is correct in stating that Kloetzoer discloses acidic phosphoric

acid ester shown by Formula II in column 3, lines 10-31 which in part coincides with the organic phosphoric acid ester of Component C of claim 1, it cannot be concluded, on this basis alone, that the invention of amended claim 1 requiring Components A, B and C to be contained at specified rates is obvious over and in view of these cited references.

Claim 10, comprising the same inventive elements as claim 1, is also believed allowable.

In summary, it is believed that the instant Amendment is responsive to the Office Action and hence that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Keiichi W. Shimura  
Registration No. 29,093

June 1, 2006  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP  
500 12th Street, Suite 200  
Oakland, California 94607  
Telephone: (510) 663-1100  
Telefax: (510) 663-0920